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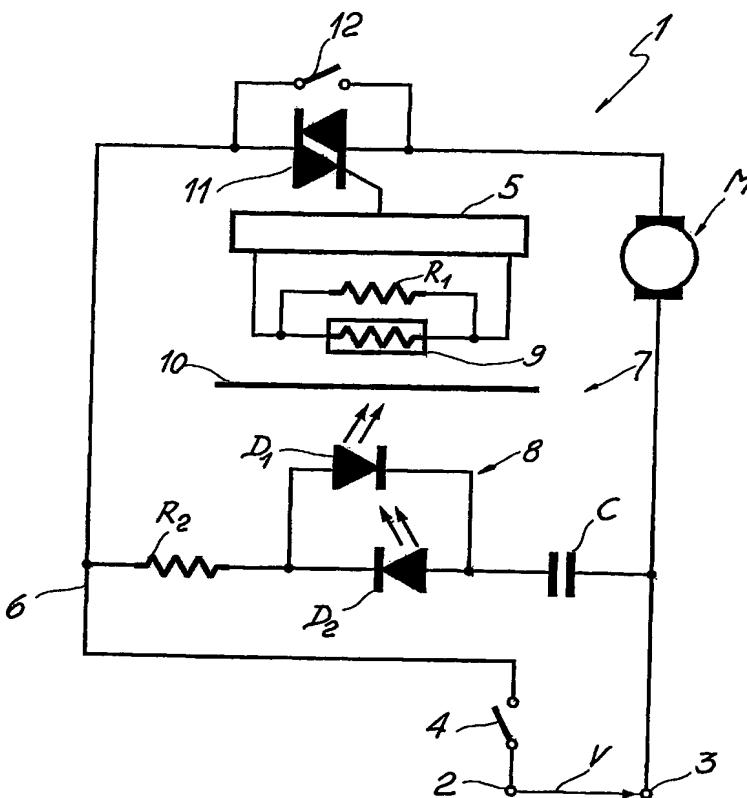
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(54) Title: CONTROL DEVICE FOR VARIABLE SPEED ELECTRIC MOTORS, PARTICULARLY FOR POWER TOOLS



(57) Abstract: A device for controlling variable speed electric motors, particularly for hand held power tools and other miniaturised electrically powered apparatuses, comprises an electronic driver unit (5) connectable to the terminals (2, 3) of an electric power source for supplying electric current to at least one electric motor (M) and an optical switch device (7) for triggering the electronic driver unit (5). The optical switch device (7) comprises light emitting means (8) and light transducer means (9) for detecting and converting light into an electric variable signal. The light transducer means (9) are operatively connected to the electronic driver unit (5) for controlling the electric motor (M). The light emitter means (8) comprise at least one white light, high brightness LED (D1, D2) connected in parallel to the electric power line terminals (2, 3) by means of a miniaturised power circuit. The miniaturised power circuit comprises at least one resistor (R2) when said at least one electric motor (M) is a DC motor, and a capacitive phase displacement power supply (C, R2) when said electric motor is an AC motor. The capacitive phase displacement power supply (C, R2) comprises at least one capacitor (C) and an input resistor (R2) adapted to supply said diodes (D1, D2) with a threshold voltage.

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